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8 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CIA Request for Advance of The Bay of Pigs

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. Regarding Richard Starnes' column in the Scripps Howard newspapers of 5 May 1964 that quotes Haynes Johnson, author of The Bay of Pigs, as stating that CIA asked for an advance copy of his MBS and that he (Johnson) offered to correct any misinformation noted by CIA, I know of no one in CIA ever making such a request.
3. In my telephone conversation of 5 April 1963 with Ed Guthman in the Attorney General's office, I asked Ed if and when his office received a galley proof of the book, would he give us (CIA) a look at it since we would be interested. He said he would. At that time no writer had been definitely agreed upon although Ed thought it would be Johnson. I never talked to Johnson.
4. Ed Guthman said today that if that is my memory, it undoubtedly is correct. He said that Bobby Kennedy was so impressed with the courageous part these four Cubans played in survival of their imprisonment that he, Guthman, got some people together to discuss the idea of an article. The Attorney General had no further activity regarding the magazine article or the book. John Nolan took over the idea of a magazine article or a book. He, Nolan, got another lawyer to handle details of a publisher, publisher-author agreements, etc. The Attorney General had nothing to do with this. John Nolan received some galley proofs of the Johnson book and turned a copy over to [ ] of CIA. Regarding this latter, I know nothing.
5. I accept Mr. Guthman's statement that Bobby Kennedy did not sponsor The Bay of Pigs by Haynes Johnson.

VED

[ ]  
Consultant

cc: /DDCI  
Executive Director-Comptroller